Govt. have already been apprised of the above positions.

Expenditure on Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir

2585 SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the security forces by the Central Government in Jammu and Kashmir during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 for the maintenance of law and order the curbing militancy and the total expenditure shared by the State Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information on the Floor of the House.

Handicapped Persons in Public Sector Undertakings

2586 KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of physically handicapped persons given employment in the Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years alongwith year-wise break up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Retail Prices of Common Drugs

2587 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Common drugs retail prices shooting up' appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 12th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to bring down the prices of the common drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Ministry undertakes periodic studies to compare prices of formulations. In the latest such study it has been found that prices of 21 formulations had gone up. However, it would not be correct to say that all these are commonly used formulations.

(d) In the case of price controlled medicines, the prices are fixed as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. In the case of medicines outside price Control, if abnormal increases are noticed the matter is taken up with the concerned manufacturers for justification of the same.

(e) Whenever instances of price violations in price controlled formulations are noticed in the Department, action under DPCO, 1995 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is taken through the State Drug Controllers.

Depletion of Lakes

2588 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the depletion of Chilka and Anshupa lakes in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save these two famous lakes of Asia from further depletion; and

(d) the time by which the National Lake Conservation Plan is likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b). As per the reports of the Government of Orissa, Chilka lake is threatened due to problems of siltation, choking of the mouth and decrease in salinity regimes. This has affected changes in flora and fauna.

Anshupa lake is facing the problems of encroachment and siltation due to deforestation in the catchment area.

(c) Chilka lake is designated as one of the wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and is also covered under the National Programme for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakh has been provided to the Government of Orissa by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Government of Orissa for soil conservation in the catchment area, habitat improvement of Nalabana database creation and generating awareness under this programme. The 10th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa for Preservation of Chilka Lake' under Special Problem Grants. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka Lake for 1996-2000, prepared by the Government of Orissa, has been approved by the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

The State Government of Orissa have undertaken several measures in Anshupa lake for control of siltation through plantation in the catchment area, deweeding, fisheries development etc. An amount of Rs. 10.05 lakhs has been incurred by the State Government for soil conservation measures from 1990-91 to 1992-93. Cuttack District Environmental Society has been also identified as the nodal agency for undertaking different environmental activities in Anshupa lake. An amount of